



MERAH GALLERY

S. Dwi Stya Acong

Artist Profile - March 2026

Indonesian Artists



S. Dwi Styra Acong

S. Dwi Styra Acong (b. 26 March 1977, Malang, East Java) is among the most distinctive painters of his generation in Indonesia, recognised for a body of work that occupies the space between Impressionist optical sensibility and Surrealist conceptual enquiry. He completed his formal training at the Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI) Yogyakarta between 1994 and 2003, the institution that has shaped much of the country's contemporary painting canon. He continues to live and work in Yogyakarta, the city that remains the intellectual centre of his practice.

Acong's painterly language is built on short, unblended brushstrokes that produce intense chromatic vibrations, a technique he deploys not in pursuit of plein-air naturalism but as a means of unsettling the viewer's perception of place and time. His compositions characteristically feature solitary anonymous figures, often men with their backs turned to the viewer, set within luxuriant landscapes punctuated by gossamer geometric structures suspended in mid-air. The result is a pictorial world in which the familiar and the impossible coexist, holding the spectator in a state of suspended recognition.

S. Dwi Styra Acong

Conceptually, his practice interrogates the fault lines between man and nature, presence and absence, the corporeal and the imagined. By combining different stylistic registers within a single canvas, he confronts the absurdity of the human condition and prompts a reconsideration of how the human figure relates to the natural world. The recurring rupture between time and space in his work functions as both formal device and philosophical proposition, positioning the viewer as an active witness to questions of existence rather than a passive observer of landscape.

His work has been presented at leading institutional and commercial venues across three continents, including solo exhibitions at Primae Noctis Art Gallery (Lugano, 2019), G13 Gallery (Kuala Lumpur, 2015), Affandi Museum (Yogyakarta, 2008), and Koong Gallery (Jakarta, 2006), with significant group presentations at Primo Marella Gallery (Milan, 2018), Galeri Nasional Indonesia, ArtJog, the National Museum of Cambodia, and KunstRAI Amsterdam. He was a finalist for the Philip Morris Indonesia Art Award (2000) and the Jakarta Art Award International Painting Competition (2012), and his work has been offered at Sotheby's Hong Kong within its Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Art sales, confirming his standing within the international secondary market for Indonesian contemporary art.





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